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COUNTRY CUBA/ECUADOR/JAMAICA

DOI OCTOBER 1976

SUBJECT COMMENTS BY CUBAN OFFICIALS ON 6 OCTOBER CRASH OF

CUBANA AIRLINER AND ASSASSINATION OF ORLANDO LETELIER,

FORMER CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

ACQ [ECUADOR, QUITO] (27 OCTOBER 1976)

FIELD NO.

SOURCE A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ECUADOR (PCE) WHO
ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF LEADERS OF THE PCE CONTROLLED
CONFEDERATION OF ECUADOREAN WORKERS (CTE). HE IS A
FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE.

5 NOV 16 1976

1. JESUS E S C A N D E L ROMERO, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL

RELATIONS OF THE CENTRAL UNION OF CUBAN WORKERS (CTC), AND

5 ANTONIO L O P E Z LAMAS, CTC CHIEF OF LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS, DURING

3 THEIR VISIT TO ECUADOR FROM 7 TO 14 OCTOBER 1976 TO ATTEND AN

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ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVES THAT THE CIA PRESENTLY IS INVOLVED IN MANY PLOTS AND ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ITS POLICY DOES NOT INCLUDE PERPETUATING SUCH VIOLENT ACTIONS ON U.S. TERRITORY. ESCANDEL SAID THAT THE CIA IS UNABLE TO CONTROL THE CURRENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT LETELIER'S ASSASSINATION IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS LACK OF CONTROL.

3. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: ~~[HVC]~~ 7528, TDFIRDB-315/10783-76, 28 OCTOBER 1976, FROM A SOURCE WHOSE RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED, REPORTED A CUBAN DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS THAT, ACCORDING TO A MESSAGE FROM THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IS INVOLVED IN THE CRASH OF THE CUBAN PLANE AND ALSO IN THE ASSASSINATION OF LETELIER. A SOURCE WHOSE RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED REPORTED THAT A CUBAN DIPLOMAT IN JAMAICA MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME COMMENTS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE VENEZUELAN ARRESTED IN TRINIDAD FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLANE CRASH CONFESSED TO BEING A MEMBER OF "EL CONDOR," A CUBAN EXILE GROUP, AND TO BEING ASSOCIATED WITH ORLANDO B O S C H, A CUBAN EXILE LEADER. ACCORDING TO THE CUBAN DIPLOMAT, THE VENEZUELAN CONFESSED THAT "EL CONDOR" WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 6 OCTOBER BOMBING, THE 9 JULY 1976 ATTEMPT TO BOMB A

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CUBANA PLANE IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA, AND THE ASSASSINATION OF LETELIER. HE ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED U.S.\$40,000 TO CARRY OUT HIS TASKS. IN HIS COMMENTS THE CUBAN DIPLOMAT DID NOT SPECIFY WHETHER OR NOT THIS MONEY COVERED ONLY ONE OR A SERIES OF ACTS.)

4. (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A SOURCE WHOSE RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED, A CUBAN OFFICIAL IN ARGENTINA SAID IN LATE OCTOBER THAT IT WAS CERTAIN THAT THE CIA AND AGENTS OF THE CHILEAN NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE (DINA) WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 6 OCTOBER PLANE CRASH, THE KILLING OF LETELIER AND THE 1974 ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL CARLOS P R A T S, FORMER COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES.)

5. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY AT QUITO. SENT TO BUENOS AIRES, SANTIAGO, CARACAS, KINGSTON, PORT OF SPAIN. ~~JS~~
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